

## THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY

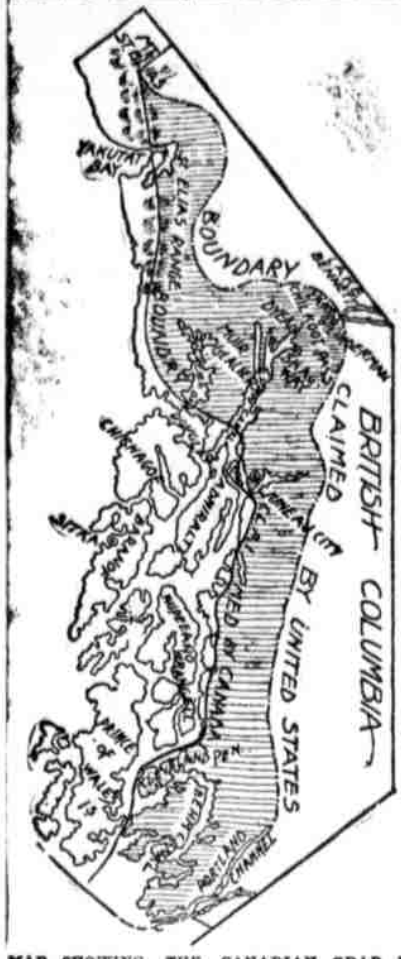
Dispute Over the Line May Lead to Serious Difficulty.

### CANADA'S PREPOSTEROUS CLAIMS.

See Mapmakers Place Juneau, All the Passes and a Good Strip of Our Northwestern Territory in British Columbia. Origin of the Line.

The dispute over the Alaskan boundary line is likely to develop into the hottest kind of a controversy before another six months have passed. It is not likely to be merely a diplomatic dispute either. The present conditions at least point to something more serious.

By looking at any standard American map, or an English one for that matter,



MAP SHOWING THE CANADIAN GRAB IN ALASKA.

for if it was made prior to 1890, you will see that our big territory is of most peculiar shape. On the southern end, like an arm extended down toward the rest of Uncle Sam's territory and reaching for a hand which should be outstretched to meet it, is a long, narrow strip of land fringed with islands. It is the width and length of this strip which are in dispute.

The British, by the simple process of issuing a map on which the Canadian government has put its seal of approval, propose to grab a big slice of this strip which has so lately come to be of such importance. It is an old British trick. That same map-grabbing game has been played by the same fellows all round the world. It has won in Africa time and again. It is the same game against which Venezuela made such a vigorous protest. How it will succeed in Alaska remains to be seen.

The Canadians have recently issued a new map of British Columbia in which our strip of southern Alaska coast appears to have shrunk, like a flannel shirt in the hands of a poor laundress. We had always figured that this strip extended as far south as Portland canal and was 35 miles wide, the boundary line following the indentations of the coast. But this new Canadian map shows that the boundary line leaves the mainland at Cleveland peninsula, far north of Portland canal, and from Mount St. Elias follows the coast closely, leaving us only a narrow strip of beach here and there.

By this new claim the Canadians seek to grab such important parts of southern Alaska as Juneau, the metropolis of the territory; a large part of Douglas island, including Douglas City and the famous Treadwell gold mines; Glacier bay and Mait glacier, the starting points of Dyke and Skagway, the lower part of Lake Lindeman and all three of the passes.

Not only do the mapmakers make this claim, but the Canadians themselves insist upon it. The chambers of commerce of British Columbia recently united in making a demand that the



LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE M. CRANFORD.

Canadian government should close the passes at Dyke and Skagway to all Americans so that Canadians and Englishmen might stand a better chance of finding fortunes in the Yukon gold camps after they had gone in over Canadian trails with outfits purchased in Canada.

Of course it is the loss of trade which is worrying the Canadians. They would like to force every Yukon prospector to buy his supplies of their merchants. They look with envious eyes at the bustling stores of San Francisco, Portland and Seattle.

The Canadian authorities will not close the passes. They will do their best, however, to make those routes unpopular to Americans. Even now they are camping at the Yukon end of the passes and harassing American prospectors by the extortion of all sorts of taxes. From the latest reports it seems that about every time a prospector meets a Canadian official he must pay \$10 for a certificate of some kind. At Lake Bennett, the southern part of which is supposed to be in American territory, he finds a customs officer who makes him pay a duty on almost everything in his pack. When he starts to build a boat, he is met by a demand for more money.

to be told that the primeval forests have been ceded to a British syndicate and that if he wants to cut down a tree he must pay for it. But before he can use an axe he must pay \$10 more for a hand lumberman's certificate. And these are only the preliminary duties and taxes. Later on he will have the pleasure of yielding 10 per cent of all the gold he takes out to the Canadian government, which gobbles every other claim discovered.

Just how far the Canadians will go toward enforcing their claims to Alaskan territory is a question, but in the past the British policy has always been to grab everything in sight and fight and arbitrate afterward if necessary.

The Canadian government is represented in the Yukon region by a force of about 800 men of the northwestern mounted police, commanded by Major Walsh. These men are magnificently equipped and well trained. Uncle Sam has less than 100 soldiers, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Randall. They are there for the purpose of preserving order.

But besides the little handful of soldiers there will be many thousands of Uncle Sam's citizens in the Yukon country as soon as spring has fairly begun. They may submit tamely to the many impositions which the Canadians have prepared to practice on them and they may not. It would be a bad piece of business if the American prospectors and the northwestern mounted police should clash, but the unsupported claims of Canada to Alaskan territory, if persisted in, are apt to bring about just such a crisis.

At any rate there is bound to be a lively diplomatic discussion concerning the boundary line. For over two years a treaty providing for the fixing of the boundary has been pending in the United States senate. The treaty probably will be ratified this spring, and commissioners will be appointed to settle the boundary. If the British claim holds good, Dyke and Skagway and Mait glacier will be lost to the United States. Up to 1884 both countries were practically united as to the boundary line from Mount St. Elias to the southeast. According to the terms of the treaty between Russia and Great Britain, the United States in purchasing Alaska in 1867 acquired all of Russia's rights.

On all maps from 1827 to 1884 the boundary line has been in general terms



CLIFFORD SIFTON, CANADIAN MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

parallel to the winding of the coast and 35 miles from it. In 1884, however, one of the Canadian maps showed a marked deflection of this line at its south end. Instead of passing up Portland channel the Canadian map showed the boundary as passing up the Behm canal, an arm of the sea 60 or 70 miles west of Portland channel, this change having been made on the bare assertion that the words "Portland canal," as inserted, were erroneous.

There are three facts which go to show that this map was incorrect. In the first place, the British admiralty, when surveying the northern limit of the British Columbia possessions of 1898, surveyed Portland canal and not Behm canal and thus by implication admitted this canal to be the boundary line; second, the region now claimed by British Columbia was at that time occupied as a military post of the United States without objection or protest on the part of British Columbia; third, Annette island, in this region, was by act of congress, four years ago set apart as a reservation for the use of the Metlakatla Indians.

Another change was made at Lynn canal, the northernmost extension of the Alexander archipelago, which runs north of Juneau and is the starting point for the gold district on the Dyke and Skagway routes. If the official Canadian map of 1884 carried the boundary line around this canal, another Canadian map three years later carried the line across the head of the canal in such a manner as to throw its headwaters into this rich territory.

The man who is directing the policy of the Canadian government in this matter and who will engineer the grab if it is made is Clifford Sifton, minister of the interior. He is thoroughly familiar with the situation and already knows all the ins and outs of the boundary dispute. He is the official who recently visited Washington in connection with the Klondike relief expedition. He is shrewd and sharp and will undoubtedly see to it that the boundary line, now in a rather unstable condition, is pushed the right way to please Canadians.

CYRUS SYLVESTER.

An eminent physician and Fellow of the Royal Society, seeing over the door of a palatial abode, the Crown and Thistle, by Malcolm MacTavish, M. D., F. R. S., walked in and severely rebuked the landlord for this presumptuous insult to science. Boniface, with proper respect, but with a firmness that showed he had been a soldier, assured the doctor that he meant no insult to science. "What right, then," asked he, "have you to put up those letters after your name?"

"I have," answered the landlord, "as good a right to those as your honor, as drum major of the Royal Scots fusiliers."—Sanitarium.

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## FASHIONS OF NEW YORK.

Silken Fabrics Which Are Dreams of Subtle Beauty.

### RICH EFFECTS FOR EVENING WEAR.

Many New Weaves Showing Artistic Color Combinations—Novel Ways in Which Lace Is Used—Fascinating Summer Goods—New Parasols and Straw Hats.

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If there is any glamour or richer material than a new silken fabric now offered, I have never seen it. It is a mingling of all other silks and the consequent production of a superb piece of goods. There are several color combinations of this new silk, so that all tastes may be suited, but the loveliest one is where electric blue and silvery white are united in one perfect fabric.

This silk has been woven 40 inches wide so that the new two piece skirt can be cut from it, leaving the stripes to meet in front in a Y shaped design. It is a heavy corded stollienne weave, with alternate three inch stripes of heavy satin. The satin weave is the electric blue. The alternate stripes are white, with a rich moire thrown over them. The moire in some lights hints of the blue and sometimes the blue looks nearly white, so that altogether the surface shows a subtle blending of the two. Faint green and ivory, ivory and old rose and a dozen other combinations of color are brought together in this beautiful silk, which is rich enough for a coronation robe.

The intention is to have trains of medium length to all gowns made of this silk, which I could not find a name for. It goes without saying that no trimming is to be put upon the skirt, but no restriction is placed on the amount that may be added to the waist.

One pattern gown had the waist round and low in the neck and draped with a white crepe silk fleche. This began at the corner of the right side of the neck and was fastened to the left shoulder and carried over a knot of electric blue satin ribbon as wide as the stripes. The fleche was carried across the back and over the right shoulder, and there loosely tucked into a graceful design, and from there brought



EVENING AND RECEPTION DRESSES.

across the bust to the left side, where it hid under a belt and rosette of the ribbon. There were puffs to the sleeves, and a shirred crepe lace long sleeve which could be slid under the puffs and tied with tapes, or the long sleeves could be omitted where a more elaborate effect was desired.

Among the new silks we had many brocades, mostly in the sequined effects. A goodly share of these are in bayadere designs, particularly in black. The body of the silk is broadened, with waved and corded lines in the roundabout fashion. Some of the stripes are satin faced, with heavy corded edges.

There are some very handsome new thick silks for cloaks and mantles. These with cords like ottomans, grosgrain bayadere and stollennes are the richest. There are some damasks with raised figures, mostly in odd and intricate scroll designs and palm leaf patterns. Taffeta in fine checks and in large plaids and also in pretty stripes are all new.

Striped taffeta is so crisp and so pretty that many very dainty gowns are produced of it. There are certain effects to be obtained with taffeta silk that no other can give. A daintiness attaches to it in some occasions, and it will be long before it loses its popularity again.

A reception dress which I saw was made of red and gray taffeta in broken narrow stripes. The skirt was plain and demurely trained, though down the front seams were ruffles of black lace. The blouse was made of a black crepe lace with a narrow ruffling of black crepe lace. The revers were likewise trimmed. The full vest front was of white crepe lace, with narrow black lace edging sewed to all the plaits and on the draped neck. A novel arrangement was shown on the sleeves. A quadruple shirring reached half way up the arm both back and front. It broke the lines in a very artistic fashion.

Nearly all the designs in the lighter silks, like stripes and checks, are produced in wash silks also. Some corded silks can be washed. There are about 350 different designs in the printed silks. Some are small, some large, some modest in design and color and others very bright, not to say glaring. But with the dainty checks and stripes and the printed silks every person ought to find a favorite.

Lace as trimming is better liked than ever and incredible quantities of it will be employed. The latest fancy has been to cut out the large sprays of white chintilly and apply them directly on a surface of rich mouse colored tulle. The design in question is unusually large and is introduced in a sort of lattice pattern over the whole front of the skirt. In a costume which I saw one row was brought around the bottom of the train. None was put on the neck and had small revers and a wide white mousseline de soie vest. This was gathered full and was slightly puffed at the front. There were a narrow green velvet belt and high stock of the same in a becoming myrtle shade. The sleeves were plain, but the whole effect was indescribably rich.

I noticed on a thick terry velvet in a dull olive green a number of set pieces of hand crocheted lace in acorn thread. It was in a sort of lattice pattern over the whole front of the skirt. In a costume which I saw one row was brought around the bottom of the train. None was put on the neck and had small revers and a wide white mousseline de soie vest. This was gathered full and was slightly puffed at the front. There were a narrow green velvet belt and high stock of the same in a becoming myrtle shade. The sleeves were plain, but the whole effect was indescribably rich.

Another novelty in the way of trimming for all sorts of gowns for home and for street is the jewel button. This is of steel filigree with enameled flowers, cut steel

with imitation jewels and no end to the gills and enamel fancies, some large and some small. The prettiest are of steel and enameled in form of a clover leaf.

For outings there is a new stuff called velours de chaise, a sort of corduroy. It wears admirably, but is rather heavy.

Scott tweeds grow prettier and more serviceable with each week. Those with tartan facing make stylish golfing capes and, in fact, whole suits. There are some very pretty new tennis flannels, the greater part having light gray or drab ground-work with bright stripes. The shepherd plaids are in for a long run. Gray with canary, burned orange and gamboge, also corn yellow, is a favorite combination. Coral pink, light heliotrope, mouse, silver, iridescent green, a pinkish gray and old rose are all among the newest colors; so are turquoise, perruche and pimperm.

In plaids the blue and green is the new color, and I think it will prove very popular. Plaid in production in every color, with velvet, velours, poplin, grenadine, gauze and barages and even in the cottons. The gingham shows the effect of the rage for plaids, for though they are nearly always in plaids designs they are of a kind entirely different from the regular plaids found in other goods.

The best gingham leaves very little to choose between them and the silks in point of appearance. There are some new cotton mixed taffetas in light colors. They are very pleasing to see and to feel. They are washable. Some of them are woven with a silken gloss and others are dull surfaced. There are some very pretty thin cottons in faint colors with small checks outlined in silk threads in different colors. Wool and cotton are also blended in other very pretty goods for everyday wear. This is also in fine checks and plaids. In fact, almost everything in the cotton and wool weaves and most of the rest have checks or plaids.

The lawns, dimities, plumettes, organzies, batistes and percales are printed in dainty floral designs, for which we should be only thankful, as they refresh the eye. Nothing could be more delicate or lovelier than these thin and filmy fabrics. They are not expensive—indeed one wonders how all that beauty can be provided and sold so cheaply.

The fine coin dotted swisses will be great favorites, and for them lace and ribbon are the proper trimming. The fine lawns and linen batistes are exquisite when well designed and not very expensive.

As Lent approaches nearly all young la-

## AN ALASKA MYSTERY

COPPER RIVER AND ITS LEGENDARY RICHES TO BE INVESTIGATED.

During Prospectors Will Penetrate to Its Source in a Search for Rich Gold Placers and the Fabled Mountain of Pure Copper—Perils of the Trip.

During the next few months the mystery which has for years hung around the Copper river in Alaska will be dissipated. Not a few of the thousands who are even now pouring into Alaska will cut losses from the general army of prospectors at Sitka and go by infrequent boats to Orca, and thence to Alaganik, which is on the north shore of the great delta of Copper river.

Including the marshy islands, and bars and small channels into which the great stream is divided, the mouth of the river is over 60 miles in width and from the sea to where the river divides is over 50 miles. Copper river rises up in the center of the southeastern corner of Alaska and flows almost due south to the ocean. Its source is somewhere in the Alaskan range of mountains, and it is hemmed in by parallel ranges for most of its length. Its bed is a long, winding gorge or canyon, cut out of the solid rock by ancient glaciers. On the west come in many small tributaries which rush down from among the mountains. The water is shallow and swift, having a fall of some 3,000 feet in 840 miles. It is not navigable for even the smallest of steam craft and even canoes and shallow boats have to be poled or towed through tortuous channels which wind through its rock strewn bed. The Indians prefer to travel over its course in winter when it is covered with ice, but to this mode of travel there is a serious drawback. From the middle of November until late in February a terrible wind blows almost constantly down the funnellike canyon, a wind so terrible that living creatures can hardly face it. Of course the wind is unusually continuous, but it is so nearly so that, considering the lack of shelter afforded along its desolate banks, travel is hazardous at best.

But notwithstanding all these difficulties, prospectors will probably penetrate to its very source during the next 12 months, for it is generally believed the untold wealth awaits the men who shall face the dangers and explore its upper reaches. Prior beliefs have been found near the mouth of the river, not rich in gold, it is true, but rich enough to lead shrewd prospectors to believe that farther up the river are placers which will equal those along the Klondike.

But while the chances of finding gold are supposed to be good there is an equally alluring prospect based on the old traditions which led to the naming of the river. They tell stories of a mountain of solid copper which rears a red peak up somewhere near the source, a mountain which the Indians know about and which they jealously guard, but which no white man has ever seen and lived to tell about. It is like the fabled silver mountains of the Aztecs.

That the Indians get copper from somewhere is most certain, for it is a common metal with them. They make bullets, knife blades, pins and other articles of it. They also bring down copper ore in which silver and sometimes gold is mixed. It is well known also that the Indians are too lazy to be miners and that if the copper did not lie exposed on the surface they would never take the trouble to use it.

Lieutenant Allan, U. S. A., explored Copper river in 1885 and nearly starved through loss of supplies. Much rain fell, so that, although it was in April, sledging was next to impossible and the men slept in the snow in sopping clothes for weeks. The natives, who are known as Midnocks, or Suk Indians, have an ancient reputation for hostility and are credited with numerous massacres of Americans as well as Russians. Recent visitors to Copper river deny this and say the Indians are intelligent and friendly.

In a recent letter posted at Alaganik a Copper river prospector has this to say of them: "The Indians are not hostile. On the contrary, they are more than friendly. They are a much finer, more intelligent lot of men than any Alaska Indians along the coast and comparable favorably with the best examples of the Crow or Chippewas. They are very clean, have a fine skin, paint very little, have a clear, kind eye, are very manly in action and look you square in the face when they talk."

"We traveled and camped with a band of six of them for nearly two days, off and on, and in every camp found them ready to help carry our stuff short distances, to help us get wood and water for camp, and, although they were curious sometimes, they never moved a single article."

The same prospector, in describing his trip up the river, says:

"The actual hardships commence on the trip from the Bear House, for even under favorable auspices a party with a loaded boat can only make about two miles a day and must work like heroes to even accomplish that distance. They must be ready to sleep upon a river bar, where the stones vary from fine black sand to boulders the size of one's head; they must wade Morpheus lying on a patch of open swamp, with the rain falling in torrents; they must work early and late and expect to be soaked by their wading after day; they must be content with twoasty meals a day, and such meals—bacon and beans, then beans and bacon, then bacon and beans, coffee and occasionally a tough flapjack."

"It is impossible to cook more when pushing ahead; then, again, blankets often get wet, and there is no place to dry them—no picnic even for men accustomed to hardships of frontier life."

"Beyond the Sheep House is the Upper Bear House at a distance of seven miles and on the same side of the river. Here the current is about ten miles an hour. The river is a mile wide and very deep, there being only two seasons of the year when passage at this point is practicable—in the fall, from Sept. 10 to Oct. 15, approximately (by boat), or in March and April on the ice."

But even under these discouraging conditions the possibility of finding rich placers or of reaching the mountain of copper will lead determined prospectors to push to the end, and by next spring Copper river will be no longer a mystery.

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